

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 8, 2011

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the House Floor during two rollcall votes taken on Thursday, March 3.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcalls 161 and 162.

HONORING 8TH GRADERS AT
CARLISLE MIDDLE SCHOOL**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 8, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of the eighth-grade students at Carlisle Middle School in Carlisle, Iowa. These students recently finished first in the nation in the FBI's Safe Online Surfing (SOS) Internet Challenge in December 2010.

The SOS Internet Challenge is a national competition that seeks to educate elementary and middle school students about the importance of safety when using the internet. The topics include protecting personal information, online predators, cyberbullying, instant messaging, social networking, copyright, and more. Scores in this competition are determined by a series of web-based quizzes the students take after completing the program. Over 1,000 eighth-grade students from 47 schools in 17 states participated in the December SOS Internet Challenge.

The Carlisle Middle School eighth-grade students completed the SOS Internet Challenge under the direction of their technology instructor Julie Thompson. While the class as a whole placed first in the challenge, those students who received the top scores were Bailey Garner, Kaleigh Haus, Max Becker, Lynn Huang, and Josh Hagedorn. These five students were awarded FBI bags that included school supplies and certificates.

I commend the eighth-grade students at Carlisle Middle School for their exemplary work in the SOS Internet Challenge. In this world of advanced technology that allows for increased networking, it is imperative that our children know how to keep themselves and their personal information safe.

I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress will join me in congratulating these students on their accomplishments. It is an honor to serve as their representative, and I wish them the best of luck in the future.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOE BURNS

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 8, 2011

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Joe Burns, a U.S. Navy Hospital Corpsman from San Bruno who will celebrate his 20th birthday on March 5, 2011. This is an extraordinary birthday for Joe, not only because he is

entering the second decade of his life, but because it's a miracle that he is alive.

Joe's job was to provide medical care for Marines with Delta Company, 1st Battalion, 1st Marine Division in Afghanistan. On February 17, 2011 he and three Marines were in an armored vehicle in Helmand Province, when they struck an Improvised Explosive Device. The IED literally blew up underneath Joe's feet. The vehicle went up in the air and was propelled forward. Joe broke five bones in his heel and suffered a concussion. One Marine also suffered a heel injury, the other two were not hurt.

It is absolutely miraculous that everyone survived the ambush. The vehicle was Mine Resistant Ambush Protected, or MRAP. Joe's mother Lori Burns is convinced that it was that technology that saved her son's life. She recalls how she first learned about the incident. The hospital corpsman treating Joe handed him a phone and he said: "Mom, I'm ok, I broke my heel, they blew me up. I got to fly in a helo and I think I'm getting a Purple Heart."

Joe was treated in hospitals in Afghanistan, Germany and San Diego and received a cast on his foot in each place. This young man did not want to leave Afghanistan; he wanted to continue serving his country despite his injury. I want to thank Joe for his service. He represents the courage and bravery of our troops.

Joe grew up in San Bruno, California and went to St. Roberts Elementary School. After he graduated from Burlingame High School in June 2009, he was enlisted in the Navy in October of the same year.

On January 1, 2011, Joe was deployed on his first tour to Afghanistan—not exactly what he expected. When you enlist in the Navy, his mother quotes Joe as saying, you think you are going to be on water, not sand. It was on day 47 of his deployment that the IED blew up underneath him and sent him back home.

Mr. Speaker, I ask this body to rise with me to celebrate the life and 20th birthday of Joe Burns on this day, March 5, 2011.

CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL
WOMEN'S DAY**HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 8, 2011

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to International Women's Day, which recognizes and celebrates the economic, political, and social achievements of women throughout our global community. Since 1911, millions of women and men have gathered together on this date to campaign for the right of women to vote, work, hold public office and be treated without discrimination. This year marks the Global Centenary of International Women's Day and I am proud to help commemorate this anniversary by recognizing the incomparable achievements that women here in the United States and throughout the world have thus far achieved.

Over the years, women have made great strides in their quest for equality and we should applaud these advances. However, we must also recognize that our work is not over. While women now hold positions in the highest ranks of government, work as doctors, sci-

entists and attorneys, their wages still lag behind those of men performing the same work. The passage of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act moved us one step closer to equality in the workplace, but there is still progress to be made. And though it is encouraging that crimes against women are now treated with the seriousness they deserve, the rate of crimes committed against women continues to exceed that of those committed against men. Although we must view the advances that have been achieved as heartening and important strides forward, we must continue to labor until full equality and equal access to opportunity for women is achieved.

In New York's 22nd Congressional District, which I proudly represent, the Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce and Women's Leadership Alliance, along with their partners in all of the other area Chambers, have been engaged in promoting, supporting and encouraging the leadership, professional growth and economic success of women throughout the Hudson Valley region. Their successes are clearly a shining example of the creative accomplishments that have been realized by women worldwide. I wish to compliment the Chamber on the excellent leadership in supporting women to succeed.

Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to recognize the women of the Hudson Valley, all of the members of the Dutchess Regional Chamber of Commerce, as well as women throughout the world as they celebrate the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day. I am proud to stand with them as they continue to work tirelessly toward full equality for women everywhere.

HONORING CASIMIR PULASKI, POLISH-AMERICAN HERO OF THE
REVOLUTIONARY WAR AND HONORARY
AMERICAN CITIZEN, AND
CELEBRATING PULASKI DAY**HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 8, 2011

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Polish and American freedom fighter Casimir Pulaski. Yesterday in my home state of Illinois, we celebrated Casimir Pulaski Day, which is observed on the first Monday of March. Prior to the Pulaski Day celebration at the Polish Museum of America in Chicago, I joined with Representative MIKE QUIGLEY and Senator MARK KIRK to announce the introduction of a new bill to push for Poland's inclusion in the Visa Waiver Program. Certainly there is no better day than the one honoring Casimir Pulaski to promote the strengthening of America's ties with Poland.

Born in Warsaw, Poland, on March 6, 1745, Casimir Pulaski was a skilled commander who fought against Russian forces in Poland. Based upon his work fighting for freedom in Poland, Pulaski was recruited by Benjamin Franklin to join in the American Revolution. In his first correspondence to George Washington, Pulaski famously wrote, "I came here, where freedom is being defended, to serve it, and to live or die for it." In his first battle of the Revolution, the Battle of Brandywine on September 11, 1777, Pulaski helped alter the course of history by rallying a counterattack